

LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May - June 1995 Vol. 5, No. 3

The Gymnosperms of Long Island, NY

Introduction

This issue represents the second installment in the Atlas of Long Island Plants that the Flora Committee has been working on for many years.

The maps that are printed here show the distribution based on specimens, visual sightings and published reports. A key to the symbols is printed on page 17. Because there are many cultivated species which rarely if ever escape into the wild we have decided not to produce maps for those species, instead we have written accounts for each species. Those species which are mapped have a * in front of the species account. Readers should check both the maps and the species account for information about the distribution of a species.

As always, if you have information that would flesh out these maps please report that information to the Chairperson of the Flora Committee.

PROGRAMS

9 May 1995 - 7:30 pm*, Prof. John Silba, "Rare and Endangered Conifers of the South Pacific and Asia." Uplands Farm Nature Center, Cold Spring Harbor. (For directions to Uplands Farm call 516-367-3225).

13 June 1995 - 2nd Annual LIBS Barbecue: Glenn Richard has planned a special evening at the Swan Pond Biological Station of SUNY at Calverton. Please see the enclosed flier for specific information.

* Refreshments are available starting at 7:30 pm; the meeting begins at 8 pm.

Species Accounts

Abies balsamea (L.) Miller - Balsam Fir. Native to northeastern North America, north of Long Island. Often cultivated; seedlings have been recently reported from Nassau County. More data on this species are needed.

***Chamaecyparis thyoides (L.) B.S.P. - Atlantic White-Cedar.** Native to the coastal plain of the eastern United States, including Long Island. Extensive cedar swamps formally occurred along the south shore of Nassau County at Merrick, Baldwin, Freeport, and Seaford. In addition, Atlantic White Cedar stumps can be seen at low tide just off the coast of Montauk Point. Extant populations occur near Riverhead, Flanders, North Sea, and Smithtown. The wood has been well known for its insect repellent and decay resistant qualities, and historically the trees have been exploited for use as fence posts, shingles, railroad ties, and telephone poles. Atlantic White Cedar is listed as a rare plant in New York State (Young 1992). For historical Long Island accounts see Harper (1907), Bicknell (1908), Taylor (1915) and Laderman et al. (1987).

Cryptomeria japonica D. Don - Cryptomeria. Native to Japan. Often cultivated; seedlings have been recently reported from Nassau County. More data on this species are needed.

Ginkgo biloba L. - Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree. Native of China. Often cultivated; seedlings have been recently reported from Kings County (Brooklyn). More data on this species are needed.

***Juniperus communis L. var. depressa Pursh - Common Juniper.** Native to Long Island. Widely scattered individuals occur in open pine barrens. Particularly good stands occur in western Southampton and eastern Brookhaven Townships. A fine specimen can be seen along the sandy entrance road of Cranberry Bog Preserve, just south of Riverhead. For an historical account see Davis (1917). All specimens examined have been referred to var. *depressa*, which forms flat-topped circular patches less than 6 feet tall and several feet wide. The arborescent Eurasian var. *communis* has been reported from Long Island but not verified.

***Juniperus virginiana L. - Eastern Redcedar.** Native to Long Island. Frequently occurs as a pioneer species in old fields. On some coastal sands (eg., Orient Beach State Park) Eastern Red Cedar forms a climax forest community known as the maritime red cedar forest which is listed as a rare ecological community in New York State (Reschke, 1990). Individuals at Orient have been dated at over 130 years old. This species is known as the Long Island Christmas Tree. It was once used as a Christmas tree in Old Bethpage Village. The var. *crebra* Fern. & Griseb. occurs scattered on Long Island, old trees were seen by John Silba in south Massapequa and in Southampton. This variety is not recognized in Flora North America.

***Larix decidua Miller - European Larch.** Native to Europe and Siberia. A rare escape from cultivation; has spontaneously reproduced and become established at Underhill Estate, Muttontown Preserve and Sands Point Preserve. It is reported elsewhere on Long Island.

Larix laricina (Du Roi) K. Koch - Tamarack. Native to northern North America (north of Long Island). All historical collections and reports from Long Island are of cultivated specimens; neither escaping nor naturalizing on the island. Jelliffe (1899) and Taylor (1915) reported that this species is "not wild on Long Island." but House (1924, p. 43) reports this plant as "formerly found at Wading River, Long Island."

***Picea abies (L.) H. Karsten - Norway Spruce.** Native to northern Europe. Escaped from cultivation on Long Island. Planted trees thrive and their seeds sometimes germinate; second generation individuals sometimes grow to approximately 20 feet in height before dying, without reproducing.

***Picea glauca (Moench) Voss - White Spruce.** Native to northern North America. Escaped from cultivation on Long Island. Planted trees thrive and their seeds rarely germinate; second generation individuals rarely grow to 15 feet in height before dying, without reproducing.

Picea mariana (Miller) B.S.P. - Black Spruce. Graves & Rusk (1949) state: "It may be seen in a swamp near Merrick". There is no confirmation in this "long and well botanized area" (Peters, 1973).

Picea pungens Engelman - Blue Spruce. Reported from Fishers Island by R. H. Smith in 1943, Smith reported abundant seedling reproduction (New York State Museum Flora Cards).

***Picea rubens Sargent - Red Spruce.** Native to eastern North America. One population native to Long Island, located at Gidd's Island, Orient, was destroyed by a hurricane over 50 years ago. The only other collection and all other reports from

Long Island are of cultivated specimens. For more details see the last issue of this newsletter.

***Pinus banksiana Lambert - Jack Pine.** Native to New York only in the northern counties. A small stand at Fire Island was first reported by Art (1976) and still persists, a second population (introduced in the 1960's) consisting of over 1000 self-perpetuating individuals occurs at bluff-tops overlooking Long Island Sound near Riverhead. There is a third report from Orient. This species is planted elsewhere on Long Island.

***Pinus echinata Miller - Shortleaf Pine.** A southern species native to New York only in the extreme southeastern counties; historically known from western Long Island, with one collection from Northport; not reported from Long Island during the past 80 years.

Pinus nigra Arnott - Austrian Pine. Appears to be naturalized in several areas and reproducing many seedlings which reach at least 15 years old or more. John Silba has seen this plant at Farmingdale, Massapequa, Islip, and Wading River; earlier Roy Latham saw this plant in Orient.

***Pinus rigida Miller - Pitch Pine.** Native; infrequent in western Long Island, frequent throughout Suffolk County, the common pine of the Pine Barrens; frequently occurs in dry sandy soils, but can also tolerate wet soils. A large population of dwarf individuals occurs at Westhampton, but this form is not taxonomically recognized.

***Pinus strobus L. - Eastern White Pine.** Native Long Island populations occur at Shelter Island, Greenport, Northwest Harbor, and Flanders. Peters (1957) reported isolated individuals and small populations along the north shore from Queens to eastern Suffolk. Native populations often occur in swamps; large stands on the north shore have been introduced.

***Pinus sylvestris L. - Scotch Pine.** Introduced from northern Eurasia; planted and rarely escaping from cultivation.

***Pinus thunbergiana Franco - Japanese Black Pine.** Introduced from eastern Asia by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fays in 1892-1893 and planted at the Edward and Cook Estates in Sag Harbor (Littlefield, 1942). It escapes from cultivation, spontaneously reproduces and persists. It was planted along the Montauk Highway as early as the 1930's and was extensively planted along barrier beaches and State highways during the 1960s to 1980s, currently dying in large numbers (Daughtrey and Kowalsick, 1988). This species once was spelled *P. thunberii* but changes in the code of botanical nomenclature necessitated the change in spelling.

***Pinus virginiana** Miller - **Virginia Pine**. A southern species native to New York only in the extreme southeastern counties. Collected by Norman Taylor on the Hempstead Plains in 1914; reported from Suffolk County by Miller and Young (1874) and Middle Island by LeRoy (Eaton, 1878). There are no extant Long Island occurrences, but Virginia Pine persists on Staten Island.

Taxodium distichum (L.) Richard - Bald Cypress.

Native to southeastern United States. Reported as a native from Long Pond, Bridgehampton by Hehre & Bollard (1974), but the native status of this occurrence is questionable. Escaped from cultivation at Muttontown and Whalehouse Point, Fire Island.

Taxus baccata L. - English Yew. Native to Europe. Reported as a rare escape from cultivation on Long Island; however, it is questionable whether this species spontaneously reproduces on the island.

***Taxus canadensis** Marshall - **Canadian Yew.** Native populations were known to occur northwest of Deer Park (off the old Motor Parkway), and on Shelter Island, but these populations have not been recently observed.

***Taxus cuspidata** Sieb. & Zucc. - **Japanese Yew.** Native to Japan. Recently becoming established in open woods, woodland borders, and thickets throughout the north shore of western Long Island.

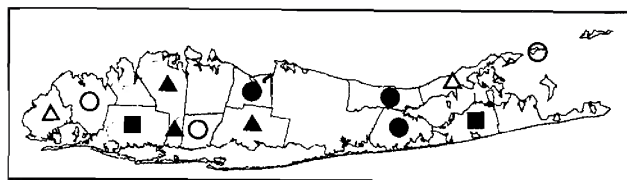
***Thuja occidentalis L. - Northern White-Cedar, Arborvitae.** Native to northern North America (north of Long Island). Most historical collections are from cultivated specimens, but several natural appearing individuals currently occur in wet soil at Moores Woods, Greenport and Fishers Island.

***Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carrière - Eastern Hemlock.** Native to northeastern North America. Peters (1973) reported "scattered as single specimens or small groups on cool slopes or deep woods along the North Shore moraine from Queens to Roslyn, thence quite rare to Roanoke (Latham)." Old trees have been seen by John Silba as scattered specimens in the woods near Farmingdale College, on the south shore near Massapequa and huge old trees along the Southern State Parkway in Beech and Pine woods. Otherwise only known from cultivation. This plant is currently being attacked by the Woolly Adelgid which is decimating populations.

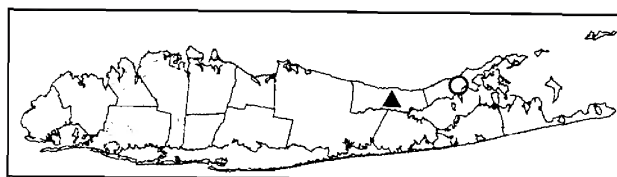
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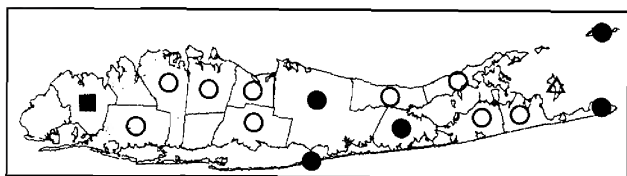
Maps



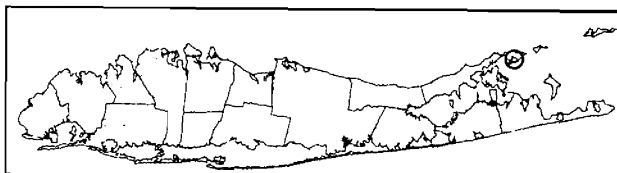
Chamaecyparis thyoides (L.) B.S.P.
Native ATLANTIC WHITE-CEDAR



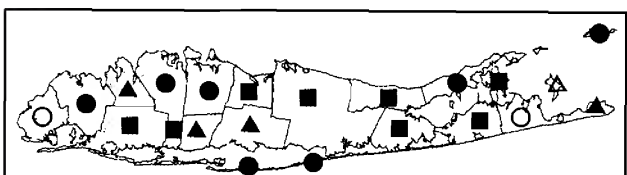
Picea glauca (Moench) Voss
Alien WHITE SPRUCE



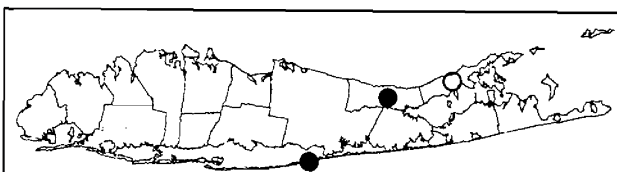
Juniperus communis L. var. *depressa* Pursh
Native COMMON JUNIPER



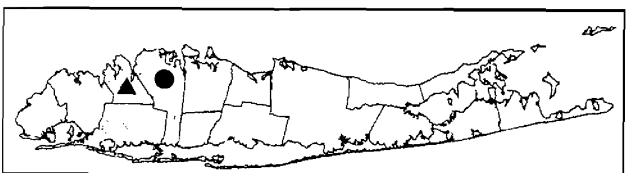
Picea rubens Sargent
Native RED SPRUCE



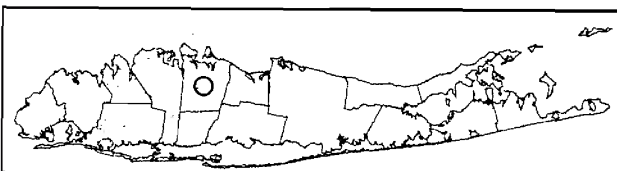
Juniperus virginiana L.
Native REDCEDAR



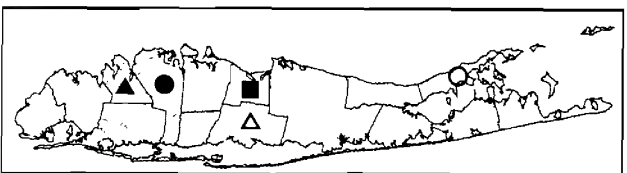
Pinus banksiana Lambert
Alien JACK PINE



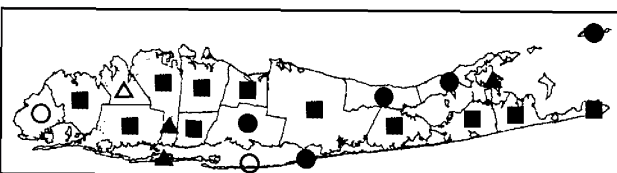
Larix decidua L.
Alien EUROPEAN LARCH



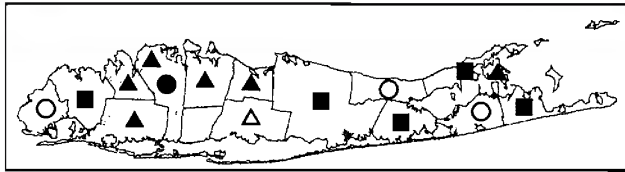
Pinus echinata Miller
Native SHORTLEAF PINE



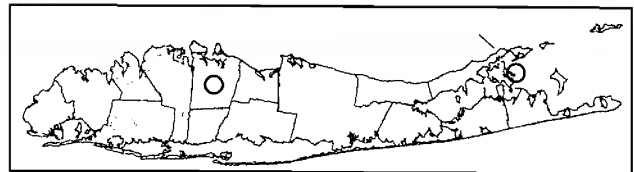
Picea abies (L.) H. Karsten
Alien NORWAY SPRUCE



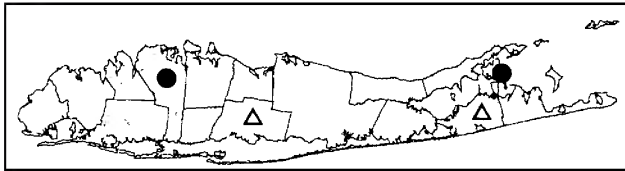
Pinus rigida Miller
Native PITCH PINE



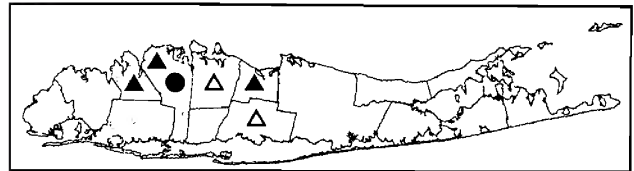
Pinus strobus L. EASTERN WHITE PINE
Native



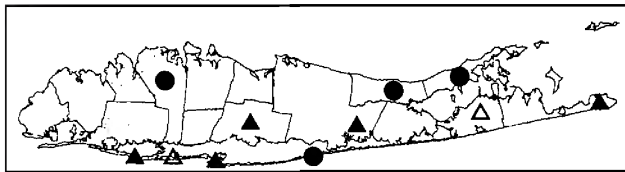
Taxus canadensis Marshall CANADIAN YEWE
Native



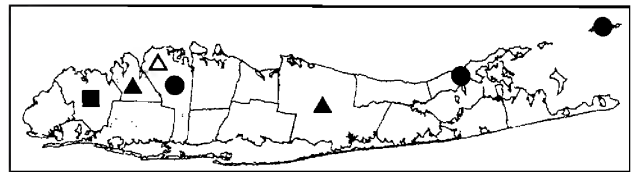
Pinus sylvestris L. SCOTCH PINE
Alien



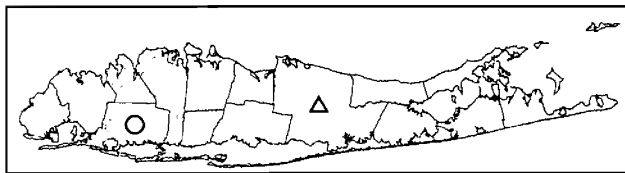
Taxus cuspidata Sieb. & Zucc. JAPANESE YEWE
Alien



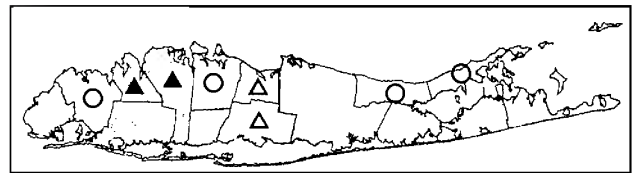
Pinus thunbergiana Franco JAPANESE BLACK PINE
Alien



Thuja occidentalis L. NORTHERN WHITE-CEDAR
Alien



Pinus virginiana Mill. VIRGINIA PINE
Native



Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carr. EASTERN HEMLOCK
Native

Key to Symbols

- (closed circle) There is a specimen for this area collected after 1980.
- (open circle) There is a specimen for this area collected before 1980.
- (closed square) There is a specimen from this area collected before 1980 and a report (visual sighting or literature report) from this area after 1980.

▲ (closed triangle) There is a report (visual sighting or literature report) from this area after 1980.

△ (open triangle) There is a report (visual sighting or literature report) from this area before 1980.

Submitted by the Flora Committee

Classification of the Native and Naturalized Gymnosperms of LI, NY

Phylum **Pinophyta** (The Gymnosperms)

Class **Pinopsida** including seven families, 65 genera and about 550 species worldwide. Three families are found on Long Island: Taxaceae, Pinaceae, and Cupressaceae.

Taxaceae

Taxus canadensis -- Canada Yew

Pinaceae

Pinus echinata -- Shortleaf Pine

Pinus rigida -- Pitch Pine

Pinus strobus -- Eastern White Pine

Larix decidua -- European Larch

Larix laricina -- Tamarack

Abies balsamea -- Balsam Fir

Tsuga canadensis -- Eastern Hemlock

Picea abies -- Norway Spruce

Picea glauca -- White Spruce

Picea mariana -- Black or Swamp Spruce

Picea rubens -- Red Spruce

Cupressaceae

Chamaecyparis thyoides -- Atlantic White Cedar

Juniperus communis -- Common Juniper

Juniperus virginiana -- Eastern Red Cedar

Thuja occidentalis -- Northern White Cedar or Arborvitae

Prepared by Eric Glanz

Bob Laskowski mentioned that **Chris Mangels** is studying *Alnus glutinosa* which is becoming a pest in the Islip area. Bob also mentioned that at Sayville the *Salix tristis* has had tremendous die-back. He wanted suggestions as to what caused this.

Marty Condon presented the evenings talk on the evolution and ecology of several Cucumber relatives in the tropics.

Executive Board Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Board will be held on 23 May 1995 at 7:15 pm (before the flora committee meeting) at the Planting Fields Arboretum Library. All members are welcome to attend.

Membership Dues

LIBS members recently received membership renewal notices. Your timely response will be greatly appreciated; it will save us time, energy, and expense by not having to send out second notices. Thank You for supporting the Long Island Botanical Society.

Native Plant Symposium

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden will be sponsoring a symposium titled: **Native Plants: Towards a 21st-century Garden**. The symposium will be held on Thursday, June 1st. Lectures and forums will be followed in the evening by a gala celebration of the 50th anniversary of BBG's gardening book series.

For more information write Lisa Katzenstein Gomez, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225, or call (718) 622-4433 ext. 259.

Society News

March 14 meeting

Lois Lindberg announced an upcoming day for naturalists at Sands Point Preserve on Tues Mar. 21. Her bat exhibit is functioning and to be discussed at the all-day workshop, the exhibit will run until May 29.

Steve Clemants presented a talk on the New York Metropolitan Flora Project with samples of the work being done.

April 11 meeting

Eric Lamont said that **Steve Young** is looking for reports of *Uvularia puberula*.

Field Trips

6 May 1995 -- Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich, NY. Meet at 10 am in the parking lot. Be prepared for wet walking and bring lunch, beverage, and insect repellent. Take the Belt (Cross Island) Parkway to exit 30. From there, go east about 13 miles on Route 106 (which becomes Jericho-Oyster Bay Road) about 4 miles to East Norwich. Turn west (left) on Route 25A (North Hempstead Turnpike); after 0.3 miles turn south (left) onto Muttontown lane. Go 0.2 miles into the preserve headquarters and parking lot. The leader is Dr. **Patrick Cooney**, 221 Mt. Hope Blvd., Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706; (914) 478-1803.

13 May 1995 -- Tungsten Mine Park/ Collis Huntington State Park, Conn. Take the 7:30 am ferry from Port Jefferson, we will meet at the Bridgeport ferry terminal, Bridgeport, CT at about 9:00 am. We will see bloodroot, spring beauties, hepaticas, and other flora found to the north of Long Island. **Chris Mangels** will lead this trip. Call Glenn Richard (924-6659) by May 11 to sign up.

27 May 1995 -- Tiffany Creek Preserve, Oyster Bay Cove. Meet at 10 am. **Al Lindberg** will lead a field trip through the oak slope communities of Tiffany Creek Preserve, the mountain laurels and pink lady's slippers should be in full bloom. Contact Al for details at 516-571-8500 (days) or 516-922-0903 (evenings).

13 June 1995 -- Second Annual LIBS Barbeque and Sundown Field Walk, Swan Pond Biological Research Station. Meet at 5 pm, for field walk, 6:30 for Barbeque. Please call Glen Richard (924-6659) by June 9 if you plan to attend. We need people to bring food and cooling equipment, but speak to Glenn first to decide exactly what is needed. **Manuel Lerdan**, the current Resident Director of the Research Station, has kindly made his house available for the event. He is trying to find locations in the Long Island Pine Barrens where Japanese Honeysuckle is established, so please let us know where you've seen it.

25 June 1995 -- Pelham Bay Park. Meet at 9 am at the driving range parking lot. Take the Tros Neck Bridge to Bruckner Expressway (route 95) north. Get off at Orchard Beach exit. Go over drawbridge, then right at the traffic light. After short distance, go into parking lot on left. Meet at the end of the lot that is farthest from the driving range. We will see Persimmon, *Lactuca floridana*, *Mimulus alatus*, Hop-tree, *Eleocharis elliptica* var. *pseudoptera*, *Tripsacum dactyloides*, purple milkweed, *Juncus brachycarpus*, *Iris prismatica*. Wear long pants, bring lunch and a beverage. The leader is **Dave Kunstler**, call him at (718) 430-1890 to sign up.

29 July 1995 -- Cunningham Park, Queens. Meet at 10 am. **David Lean** will lead a field trip through rolling hills and kettlehole ponds of Cunningham Park, we will observe the rich fern flora and rare plants of the area. Contact David for details at 718-464-9476.

12 Aug 1995 -- Calverton Ponds. Meet at Grace's, route 111, 1/10 miles south of LIE exit 70, 10-12 am, space is limited, call 367-3225 to sign up. **Marilyn Jordan** will lead this short, leisurely walk to look at the ecology of Calverton Ponds and surrounding pine barrens. We will talk about the relationship of hydrology to the development of the Calverton Ponds

flora. Be prepared for ticks (long pants) and wet walking. Bring hand lens or binoculars. We will see *Drosera intermedia*, *Eriocaulon*, etc.

19 Aug 1995 -- Anthony's Nose and Iona Island. Joint field trip with NYFA. Meet at 10 am at Iona Island. Enter Iona Island via the causeway, Park near the railroad tracks. On Iona Island we will visit a brackish intertidal marsh. We will see a rocky summit community on Anthony's Nose. The terrain is moderately steep. Wear footwear that can get wet for Iona Island and hiking boots for Anthony's Nose. The leader is **Bob Zaremba** (518) 463-6133, ext. 226.

16 September 1995 -- Breezy Point/ Fort Tilden, Queens. Meet at Fort Tilden Bldg. #1 at 10 am. To get to Fort Tilden take the Belt Parkway west to exit 11-S (Flatbush Ave South), cross the Marine Parkway bridge, bear right - exit for breezy Point, exit off the bridge onto Beach Channel Dr., go 100 yds. to traffic light (opposite Coast Guard Station Rockaway). Turn left into Ft. Tilden, proceed 200 yds. to Bldg. #1. **Bob Cook** will lead a walk through the dunes of Breezy Point and Ft. Tilden to look for rare plants and migrating birds. Call Bob for more information at 718-338-3730.

24 September 1995 -- Sandy Hook National Recreation Area, Monmouth Co., NJ. Meet at the north end of parking lot B, which is the first parking lot on the right after you enter the recreation area, meet at 10 am. Take the Garden State Parkway to exit 117 (Keyport, Rte 36) and take Rte 36 east for about 13 miles, then follow the signs for the Sandy Hook exit, which will be on the right just after you cross the Navesink River. **Karl Anderson** will lead this trip through a variety of dune and dune woodland communities. Contact Karl at 609-267-2195 for more details.

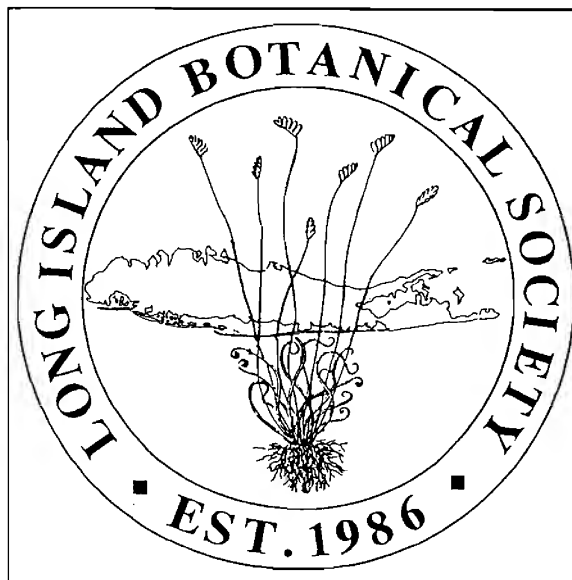
30 September 1995 -- Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 10 am, at HQ. By car: take the Belt Parkway to Cross Bay Boulevard, take Exit 17 (Rockway). Cross the North Channel Bridge. Refuge is about 1 mile past the bridge on the right. By subway: take the IND A or CC to Broad Channel Station. Walk west to Cross Bay Blvd, then north about 0.75 miles to Refuge HQ on left. By bus: take the Green Lines Q21 to Refuge. We will see a varied fall flora of the salt marshes and their adjacent transitional habitats. Be prepared for wet walking and bring lunch, beverage, and insect repellent. Leader: **Patrick Cooney**, 221 Mt. Hope Blvd., Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706; (914)-478-1803.

LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Founded: 1986; Incorporated: 1989.

The Long Island Botanical Society is dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild on Long Island, New York.

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| President | Eric Lamont |
| Vice President | Steven Clemants |
| Treasurer | Carol Johnston |
| Rec'd Sec'y | Barbara Conolly |
| Cor'sp Sec'y | Jane Blanchard |
| Local Flora | Skip Blanchard |
| Field Trip | Glenn Richard |
| | Allan Lindberg |
| Membership | Lois Lindberg |
| Conservation | Louise Harrison |
| | John Turner |
| Education | Mary Laura Lamont . . . |
| | Tom Stock |
| Hospitality | Nancy Smith |
| | Betty Lotowycz |
| Program | Eric Lamont |
| Editor | Steven Clemants 7 |



Membership

Membership is open to all, and we welcome new members. Annual dues are \$10. For membership, make your check payable to LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY and mail to: Lois Lindberg, Membership Chairperson, 45 Sandy Hill Rd., Oyster Bay, NY 11771-3111

LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

c/o Muttontown Preserve
Muttontown Lane
East Norwich, NY 11732